

## Message Text

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ACTION XMB-04

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 EB-07 RSC-01 SAM-01 AEC-07 OES-05

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/059 W

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P 101557Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY VIENNA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4516

INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE PRIORITY

UNCLAS VIENNA 0187

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OVIP (CASEY, WILLIAM J.), AU

SUBJECT: VISIT OF EXIMBANK PRESIDENT AND CHAIRMAN

CASEY TO AUSTRIA

DEPT PASS EXIMBANK

BELGRADE FOR CHAIRMAN CASEY

1. SUMMARY: EXIMBANK PRESIDENT AND CHAIRMAN WILLIAM J. CASEY VISITED BOTH SALZBURG AND VIENNA THIS WEEK. HE ADDRESSED ABOUT 100 LEADING BANKERS AND BUSINESSMEN AT VIENNA LUNCHEON GIVEN IN HIS HONOR BY AMERICAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE. HE MET BRIEFLY WITH AUSTRIAN TRADE MINISTER STARIBACHER AND ALSO INFORMALLY WITH AUSTRIAN PRESS. PRESS COVERAGE EXTENSIVE, HIGHLIGHTING CHAIRMAN'S STATEMENT THAT EXIMBANK NOW CONSIDERING REQUEST FOR POSSIBLE FINANCING FOR AUSTRIA'S SECOND NUCLEAR PROJECT.

2. EXIMBANK PRESIDENT AND CHAIRMAN WILL J. CASEY COMPLETED HIGHLY SUCCESSFUL FIVE-DAY VISIT TO AUSTRIA TODAY. AFTER TAKING PART IN CONFERENCE IN SALZBURG ON INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC POLICIES SPONSORED BY SALZBURG SEMINAR IN AMERICAN STUDIES, HE ADDRESSED BLUE RIBBON AUDIENCE IN VIENNA OF ABOUT 100 OF AUSTRIA'S LEADING

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BANKERS AND BUSINESSMEN AT LUNCHEON GIVEN YESTERDAY

IN HIS HONOR BY AMERICAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE IN AUSTRIA. MR. CASEY ALSO MET INFORMALLY WITH AUSTRIAN PRESS. AMONG KEY OFFICIALS CHAIRMAN CASEY MET IN VIENNA WERE TRADE MINISTER JOSEF STARIBACHER; DR. ABDERRAHMANE KHENE, FORMER OPEC SECRETARY GENERAL AND NOW (SINCE JANUARY 1) EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF UNIDO; HEINRICH TREICHL, GENERAL MANAGER OF THE CREDITANSTALT; AND HELMUT HASCHEK, GENERAL MANAGER OF AUSTRIAN KONTROLLBANK (ROUGHLY THE EQUIVALENT OF EXIMBANK). IN ADDITION, CASEY MET WITH VIENNA REPS OF LEADING US BANKS AND COMPANIES AND VISITED US EAST-WEST TRADE CENTER. AMBASSADOR HOSTED DINNER AT WHICH CHAIRMAN MET PROMINENT AUSTRIAN OFFICIALS.

3. IN HIS REMARKS TO CHAMBER AND TO AUSTRIAN JOURNALISTS CHAIRMAN CASEY REVIEWED ESSENTIAL FEATURES OF NEW EXIMBANK LEGISLATION. HE ALSO DESCRIBED HIS RECENT VISITS TO EASTERN EUROPEAN CAPITALS AND EXPRESSED CONSIDERABLE OPTIMISM ABOUT PROSPECTS FOR U.S. PARTICIPATION IN MAJOR PROJECTS IN THOSE COUNTRIES. CASEY WAS ALSO OPTIMISTIC ABOUT LONG-RANGE PROSPECTS FOR BRINGING TOGETHER REVENUES OF NEWLY RICH OIL PRODUCING COUNTRIES WITH TECHNOLOGY AND KNOWHOW OF WESTERN COUNTRIES TO ALLEVIATE PROBLEMS OF DEVELOPING WORLD.

4. CASEY ALSO STATED THAT EXIMBANK IS NOW CONSIDERING REQUEST FOR POSSIBLE FINANCING OF AUSTRIAN SECOND NUCLEAR POWER PROJECT BUT STRESSED THAT HE WAS NOT IN VIENNA TO DISCUSS THAT PROJECT.

5. PRESS COVERAGE DEALT WITH IN SEPTEL. HUMES

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**Review Authority:** CollinP0  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 04 APR 2003  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <04 APR 2003 by RicharJA>; APPROVED <13 FEB 2004 by CollinP0>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
05 JUL 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
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**Subject:** VISIT OF EXIMBANK PRESIDENT AND CHAIRMAN CASEY TO AUSTRIA  
**TAGS:** OVIP, AU, (CASEY, WILLIAM J)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006